

# Alexandria Gazette

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ALEXANDRIA, VA., TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1891

PRICE 2 CTS.

## MEDICINAL.

### THE

## Electrochoc

(TRADE MARK)

THE LIFE-WORK OF AN EDUCATED PHYSICIAN.

AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE

Cure of Disease Without Medicine

It is a new theory of the cause and cure

of disease, dealing with the electrical and magnetic

forces of the body and the space surrounding

it. It is not electricity.

It is a constantly active, vitalizing, and

restoring force, in nature's way, to throw

the system into its normal state, and to

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## Alexandria Gazette

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One month \$1.00

Tri-weekly one year \$4.00

Six months \$2.00

Three months \$1.00

One month \$0.50

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space contracted for.

All transient advertisements must be paid for in ad-

vance.

Marriage and death notices must be paid for in ad-

vance.

Resolutions in memoriam, of thanks, tributes of respect,

resolutions adopted by societies or persons, unless of

public concern, will only be printed in this paper as

advertisements.

The Gazette office is connected with the Telephone

Exchange. Advertisements, orders for the paper,

news, or any information or business can be sent by

telephone.

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second-class matter.]

### Letter from Algiers.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

ALGIERES, Africa, May 10.—After a delight-

ful trip through the charming island of

Sicily, we crossed over from Palermo to

Tunis, where we received our first impres-

sion of oriental life and a very vivid one it

was. We were met on our arrival at the dock

by no less than a hundred little Arabs with

turbans or fez on their heads and in highly

colored costumes, who snatched the luggage

from our hands in spite of a stout resistance.

We became angry and one of our party, a

Mr. DeCappet, from New York, struck out

manfully to the right and left. We were at

last rescued by the man from the hotel and

our luggage carried to be examined at ten

steps distant. The Arabs, of course, only

wished to carry the baggage these ten steps,

but from their manner and the number of the

one felt that a sack might easily be lost

forever.

We have seen nothing more typical of

oriental life than the town of Tunis. It is

under the protectorate of France since '98

years, but has preserved a character quite

its own. There are one hundred and fifty

thousand inhabitants and about ten thou-

sand French only. The rest are Arabs, Jews,

and negroes. The impression of one who

has never seen this life, and sees Tunis for

the first time is a queer one. The Arabs in

white turbans and long flowing draperies,

of all colors, pink, salmon, rouge, seems

unnatural, and one feels as if he were witness-

ing a grand spectacle on the stage.

A small part of the town is quite French

with its high buildings, cafes, large stores,

but a large portion, three quarters, is purely

Arab, with houses of one story, built of

stone, covered with plaster, of a whiteness

that is dazzling in the sunlight, when they

are clean, but they are very often very dirty

and yellow, with the narrow, crooked

streets, the largest barely admitting the pas-

sage of a wagon and in the majority the

little donkey with his basket can barely pass.

You meet them everywhere, these little

donkeys loaded down with all kind of ob-

jects, driven by a little Arab, who screams

and strikes them with his stick at every

step. They are queer little beasts, with

their long hair, and very dirty, for they

are never groomed. Most of them are no larger

than a good big Newfoundland dog.

One sees them also in Naples, where the

driver keeps hold of the tail and uses it as

a kind of rudder, which he pulls to the right

or left to guide them. Many of them have

the hair completely worn off on the tail from

the constant friction of the hand.

In these narrow streets one is constantly

obliged to back up against the wall to give

passage to the donkeys. On each side are

the small shops, about 7 feet square on

the average, and the Arab squatting on the floor

with his legs crossed, working at his

trade. They never stand when they can

squat down. You may stand the whole

day looking at them if you will; they will

never look at you or give the least re-

cognition of your presence. They despise

you, you know. The Arab quarter

is exceedingly interesting, on every side the

women, in their graceful costumes, veiled,

showing only their eyes. This fashion of

veiling the face seems to give an increased

brilliance to the eyes. The negroes are

veiled also. In fact, nearly all Mohammed-

dan women are. The Jewesses go unveiled

and wear costumes of the brightest colors

and covered with their odd jewelry. The

costumes are very effective. The Arabs in

Tunis are probably the richest in Africa, the

costumes are handsomer and the houses

have more of an air, all of which makes the

town the most attractive in Africa for the

stranger.

For the ladies the enormous bezzars

are the most attractive objects here. It is

nothing but a large collection of little shops

where all kinds of Arab work is sold—silks,

weapons, embroidery, carvings, etc., etc.

There is no end to the pretty things that

are exhibited. Nearly all of the shop-keep-

ers are Jews and swindle you most awfully.

Every one bargains. One generally offers

about one-fourth of the price demanded. I

remember I gave one man 20 francs for

something for which he had demanded 160

francs. He always declared that I cut his

throat, as he expressed it, but one is never

sure that one is not swindled. We bought

a few pretty things in silks, etc. A

few of the better shops offer you

a cup of their excellent Arab coffee when

you enter, to put you in a good humor, I

suppose.

We took a boat from Tunis to a town on

an arid country where nothing grows; there

is no water. After following the route for

several hours, we came upon Biskra,

a large Arab village situated in an

oasis among thousands of date trees. It is from

Biskra that such large quantities of dates are

shipped. There is the new Biskra and the old.

The new is a small French village and the old

purely Arab, containing about 50,000 souls. The

houses are one story and very low and built of

mud. They contain the mud and mould it

roughly into the form of a large brick. These

bricks are used unburned. You can imagine that

the houses do not last very long.

There is no place in Algeria so charming as a

winter resort and to lovely in itself—the green-

est of foliage, pomegranates, fig trees and palm

trees, the queer mud houses and the Arabs. The

Arab women wear a head dress here, which I

am incapable of describing.

This country is situated on the border of the

desert, for the Great Sahara begins not many

miles from here.

We made one excursion towards the desert to

an oasis about ten miles distant where there is an

old Arab village. We were practically in the

desert; everything around is flat, the horizon

seems to be much nearer to you, and in the dis